

This document, concerning variable refrigerant flow multi-split air conditioners and heat pumps is an action issued by the Department of Energy. Though it is not intended or expected, should any discrepancy occur between the document posted here and the document published in the Federal Register, the Federal Register publication controls. This document is being made available through the Internet solely as a means to facilitate the public's access to this document.

[6450-01-P]

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**10 CFR Part 431**

**[EERE-2018-BT-STD-0003]**

**Appliance Standards and Rulemaking Federal Advisory Committee: Notice of Public Meetings for the Variable Refrigerant Flow Multi-Split Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps Working Group to Negotiate a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Test Procedures and Energy Conservation Standards**

**AGENCY:** Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting and webinar.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE or the Department) announces a public meeting for the variable refrigerant flow multi-split air conditioners and heat pumps (VRF multi-split systems) working group. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) requires that agencies publish notice of an advisory committee meeting in the *Federal Register*.

**DATES:** DOE will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, April 17, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Thursday, April 18, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Washington, DC. The meeting will also be broadcast as a webinar.

**ADDRESSES:** The public meeting will be held at the U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585. On the first day, the meeting will be held in Room 8E-089, and on the second day, the meeting will be held in Room 1E-245. Please see the **Public Participation** section of this notice for additional information on attending the public meeting, including webinar registration information, participant instructions, and information about the capabilities available to webinar participants.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. John Cymbalsky, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Building Technologies (EE-5B), 950 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W., Washington, DC 20024. Telephone: (202) 287-1692. Email: *ASRAC@ee.doe.gov*.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On January 10, 2018, the Appliance Standards and Rulemaking Federal Advisory Committee (ASRAC) met and passed the recommendation to form a VRF multi-split systems working group to meet and discuss and, if possible, reach a consensus on proposed Federal test procedures and standards for VRF multi-split systems. On April 11, 2018, DOE published a notice of intent to establish a working group for VRF multi-split systems to negotiate a notice of proposed

rulemaking for test procedures and energy conservation standards. The notice also solicited nominations for membership to the working group. 83 FR 15514. This notice announces the next round of meetings for this working group.

DOE will host a public meeting and webinar on the following dates:

- Wednesday, April 17, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the U.S. Department of Energy, Room 8E-089, 1000 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20585.
- Thursday, April 18, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the U.S. Department of Energy Room, Room 1E-245, 1000 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20585.

The purpose of the meeting will be to negotiate in an attempt to reach consensus on proposed Federal test procedures and energy conservation standards for VRF multi-split systems.

## **Public Participation**

### *Attendance at Public Meeting*

The times, dates, and locations of the public meeting are listed in the **DATES** and **ADDRESSES** sections of this document. If you plan to attend the public meeting, please notify the ASRAC staff at [asrac@ee.doe.gov](mailto:asrac@ee.doe.gov).

Please note that foreign nationals participating in the public meeting are subject to advance security screening procedures which require advance notice prior to attendance at the public meeting. If a foreign national wishes to participate in the public meeting or

webinar, please inform DOE as soon as possible by contacting Ms. Regina Washington at (202) 586-1214 or by e-mail: *Regina.Washington@ee.doe.gov* so that the necessary procedures can be completed.

DOE requires visitors to have laptops and other devices, such as tablets, checked upon entry into the building. Any person wishing to bring these devices into the Forrestal Building will be required to obtain a property pass. Visitors should avoid bringing these devices, or allow an extra 45 minutes to check in. Please report to the visitor's desk to have devices checked before proceeding through security.

Due to the REAL ID Act implemented by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), there have been recent changes regarding ID requirements for individuals wishing to enter Federal buildings from specific States and U.S. territories. DHS maintains an updated website identifying the State and territory driver's licenses that currently are acceptable for entry into DOE facilities at <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id-enforcement-brief>. A driver's license from a State or territory identified as not compliant by DHS will not be accepted for building entry and one of the alternate forms of ID listed below will be required. Acceptable alternate forms of Photo-ID include U.S. Passport or Passport Card; an Enhanced Driver's License or Enhanced ID-Card issued by States and territories as identified on the DHS website (Enhanced licenses issued by these States and territories are clearly marked Enhanced or Enhanced Driver's License); a military ID or other Federal government-issued Photo-ID card.

In addition, you can attend the public meeting via webinar. Webinar registration information, participant instructions, and information about the capabilities available to webinar participants will be published on DOE's website:

<https://energy.gov/eere/buildings/appliance-standards-and-rulemaking-federal-advisory-committee>. Participants are responsible for ensuring their systems are compatible with the webinar software.

#### *Procedure for Submitting Prepared General Statements for Distribution*

Any person who has plans to present a prepared general statement may request that copies of his or her statement be made available at the public meeting. Such persons may submit requests, along with an advance electronic copy of their statement in PDF (preferred), Microsoft Word or Excel, WordPerfect, or text (ASCII) file format, to the appropriate address shown in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice. The request and advance copy of statements must be received at least one week before the public meeting and may be emailed, hand-delivered, or sent by postal mail. DOE prefers to receive requests and advance copies via email. Please include a telephone number to enable DOE staff to make a follow-up contact, if needed.

#### *Conduct of Public Meeting*

ASRAC's Designated Federal Officer will preside at the public meeting and may also use a professional facilitator to aid discussion. The meeting will not be a judicial or evidentiary-type public hearing, but DOE will conduct it in accordance with section 336 of EPCA (42 U.S.C. 6306). A court reporter will be present to record the proceedings and prepare a transcript. A transcript of the public meeting will be included on DOE's

website: <https://energy.gov/eere/buildings/appliance-standards-and-rulemaking-federal-advisory-committee>. In addition, any person may buy a copy of the transcript from the transcribing reporter. Public comment and statements will be allowed prior to the close of the meeting.

#### *Docket*

The docket is available for review at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=EERE-2018-BT-STD-0003>, including *Federal Register* notices, public meeting attendee lists and transcripts, comments, and other supporting documents/materials. All documents in the docket are listed in the <https://www.regulations.gov> index. However, not all documents listed in the index may be publically available, such as information that is exempt from public disclosure.

Signed in Washington, DC on March 26, 2019.

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Valri Lightner  
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency  
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy